To what extent do you agree that the production features of a particular scene contribute to a film’s central idea(s)?’

That a single, well crafted scene can express many important ideas, particularly if it connects and resolves so many other parts of the film – and this scene is particularly powerful at expressing Meirelle’s message.

Fernando Meirelles’ The Constant Gardener expresses his outrage at the lack of corporate responsibility of large organisations such as corporations and governments. A particular scene in this film which shows this main message, and develops and resolves many of the themes of the film is a scene at the end when the memorial service of the main characters, Justin and Tessa is held. The clever and purposeful use of many production features allows Meirelles to resolve the issues of the film while making a point to the viewer that these issues are real, and that they need to take responsibility.

At the start of this scene Justin, the protagonist, is walking across the lake bed of Lake Turkana, a remote location where his wife Tessa had been murdered some time before. As he walks the voice of Pellegrin, the Macchiavellian representative o the British government comes in as an aural bridge. Pellegrin is delivering a speech about the death of Justin, “his suicide” due to “his tormented mind” which was “typical of Justin who would not have us inconvenienced.” As viewers we know that Justin was murdered, and that Pellegrin’s speech is duplicitous emphasising his lack of respect for life and what dishonest character he is. This illustrates that Pellegrin and the British government see that their interests, which Justin stood in the way of, outweigh the value of the truth, and also one person’s life.